

# **RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2004 MEETING**

**Board Members Present: Senator Daniel Connors (Chair), Robert Batting (Vice-Chair), RIDOT Director James Capaldi, Thomas Deller, William Kennedy and Sharon Conard-Wells. Representative Brian Coogan was absent.**

**Also Present: Alfred J. Moscola (General Manager), Andrew Prescott (Outside Labor Counsel), Deborah Dawson, Maureen Neira, Mark Therrien, Roger Mencarini, Ellen Farrell and other members of RIPTA's senior staff and the public whose names are listed on the meeting sign-in sheet.**

#### **Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes of September 27, 2004 meeting**

**Senator Connors requested any comments regarding the minutes of the September 27, 2004 meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made for the approval of the minutes of the September 27, 2004 meeting by Mr. Deller, seconded by Mr. Kennedy. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.**

## **Agenda Item 2: General Manager's Report**

**Mr. Moscola asked if there were any questions on the General Manager's report or performance goals. Hearing none, he moved on to an update of the meetings held with Governor Carcieri and handed out a bound document summarizing the meetings. Overall Mr. Moscola was happy with the meetings and was able to answer all of the Governor's questions. The Governor requested that RIPTA staff look at other avenues to cover the \$1.9 million budget deficit. Mr. Moscola had Maureen Neira distribute a document that listed current budget items such as farebox purchase and the timing of the general overhaul, to be deferred to the FY 2006 budget. Ms. Neira then distributed a document containing ideas and options to reduce the deficit. This document discussed various cost cutting and revenue generating options such as increasing the trolley fare to \$1.25, increasing the price of the monthly pass by \$5.00 and instituting a multi-zone fare. The document also discussed putting a hold on all but non-critical position hiring. Mr. Moscola was discussing the particulars of each position when Mr. Batting interjected that it was his understanding from the meetings with the Governor that Mr. Moscola would put the hiring of all positions on hold. Mr. Deller then asked for detailed benefit costs associated with the positions that would be filled. Mr. Moscola explained that these options were on the table for informational purposes only. Mr. Deller asked that Mr. Moscola come back to the board with the positions he wishes to fill and the total cost, including benefits.**

Mr. Capaldi commented that with gas prices so high, he didn't feel a raise in the monthly pass would hurt ridership especially considering the roadways are clogged and the average commute time is now 20 minutes. Sen. Connors asked to see the figures from years past when fares were raised. Mr. Capaldi suggested that when Mr. Moscola negotiates contracts in the future with entities such as the colleges and universities who participated in the UPass Program, that he include a 'gas adjustment fee' or 'fuel rider' which will go into effect if gas prices were to rise sharply. Mr. Moscola reiterated that the information given to the Board today was only to update them on the meetings with the Governor. Mr. Moscola agrees with and appreciates the Board's comments. Ms. Wells commented that she felt people would be willing to pay a higher fare if the service was there.

Mr. Batting then suggested that non-represented management employees be required to contribute to their health benefits. Mr. Kennedy said that matter was a collective bargaining issue and should not be discussed. Sen. Connors pointed out that the issues of co-pays were discussed in the meetings, but noted management has not received a raise in 2 years. Mr. Moscola stated that RIPTA is running at bare bones, and that he reviews the budget and operations continually trying to come up with further savings. Sen. Connors noted that he has met with RIPTA staff to offer assistance with resolving the budget deficit situation. Mr. Moscola has additional

meetings planned with the Governor's office and the State budget office to continue to seek solutions.

**Agenda Item 3: RFP 04-43 Workers' Compensation Third Party Administration Services**

Senator Connors addressed the next agenda item. Mr. Deller made a motion to continue this agenda item to a future meeting. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4: Workers Compensation Insurance Paratransit Division**

Senator Connors addressed the next agenda item, Workers Compensation Insurance for the Paratransit Division.

Mr. Deller moved the award of the contract as recommended by staff, which Mr. Kennedy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 5: IFB 04-27 Bus Washer**

Mr. Mencarini summarized the competitive solicitation for this contract. Three bids were received and reviewed. RIPTA staff recommended that the Board award a contract to Sherman Supersonics Industries Corporation of Tonawanda, NY to supply deliver and install a two-lane bus washer for RIPTA's Providence

**Facility. The bid price for the contract is \$498,400.00 plus a 15% construction**

**contingency of \$74,760.00. Mr. Deller asked how this award would be paid and Mr. Mencarini informed the Board 80% of the cost will be paid with federal grant money and the remaining 20% will come from RIPTA's Capital Revolving Fund.**

**Mr. Kennedy moved that the Board award the contract pursuant to staff's recommendation, which Mr. Deller seconded. The Board voted unanimously to award the contract as recommended.**

#### **Agenda Item 6: Public Comment Period**

**Senator Connors opened the floor to public comments and recognized Ken Terrell, Chairman of the Massachusetts association of Transit System Users. Mr. Terrell read prepared remarks (on file) and spoke eloquently regarding the need for public transportation and the funding difficulties faced nationwide by transit properties.**

#### **Agenda Item 7: Vote to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to 42-46-5(a)(2)**

**Mr. Deller moved to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to 42-46-5(a)(2) to address labor matters. Mr. Batting seconded the**

**motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion. All Board members voted to convene the executive session.**

**Following the Board's return to open session, Ms. Wells moved to seal the executive session minutes, which Mr. Batting seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Agenda Item 8: Adjournment**

**Ms. Wells moved to adjourn the meeting, which Mr. Capaldi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Ellen M. Farrell**

**Secretary to the Board**